

Greenbelt News Review

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Average 10% Increase Faces GHI Membership

by Al Skolnik

An average increase in monthly charges of about 10 percent is indicated in the first go-around of the 1977 budget prepared by Greenbelt Homes, Inc. manager Roy Breashears. The board, which received the budget at a special meeting on October 12, has yet to act on it and will have two membership hearings before taking final action. These information meetings are scheduled for November 3 and 4, at the board offices.

Many items contribute to the proposed \$330,000 increase in the \$2.2 million budget. This increase, which comes to about 12 percent in terms of operating costs, equals 10.4 percent when related to total charges which include amortization payments. The increase will be roughly the same for the brick and frame homes.

Breakdown of Increase

(1) About a third of the increase is attributable to payroll costs. Proposed cost-of-living and grade adjustments account for half this increase. The other half is accounted for by rising fringe benefit costs — workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, social security, pension, and hospitalization.

(2) One-fifth of the increase is attributable to higher water and sewer rates and to higher trash collection fees. During the past year water and sewer rates rose from \$1.23 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.60 and are expected to increase to more than \$2.00 by next July. The city has increased its trash collection fee from \$5.00 to \$5.50 per month per home.

(3) Another fifth of the increase is attributable to real estate taxes. The amount of refund left over from last year's successful tax appeal for application to 1977 charges was not as great (\$82,000) as in 1976 (\$100,000). In addition, GHI anticipates an increase in county tax rates.

(4) The remaining one-fourth of the increase is attributable mainly to inflationary rises in the costs of material, electricity, and insurance and the additional amounts required for repayment of capital improvement loans.

Fuel Savings

The \$330,000 rise would have been greater if it were not for the energy conservation program which is expected to reduce fuel oil costs by \$12,000 in 1977 (below 1976 budget figures). This \$12,000 savings divides equally between brick and frame homes.

Another item that is expected to be lower in 1977 than in 1976 — by some \$18,000 — is contract work, which the corporation is able to perform itself with the additional employees hired this year.

According to the GHI bylaws, a special membership meeting will be

required to approve the budget, if the increase in operating costs for all units combined exceeds 9.9 percent.

Current Status Of GHI Tax Appeal

by Janet James

Here they go again, folks, but with a difference. The 1975 tax assessment of \$12,351,350 for Greenbelt Homes Inc. was protested, as in past years, at the county level. GHI lost there, and on May 10, 1976, Albert Ginsberg, GHI's attorney filed an appeal with the State. Sounds familiar, doesn't it — it has happened so often in the past. GHI habitually loses at the county level and wins on appeal.

This time there is a difference; for the first time, the county has intervened and is going all out at the State level to prevent a GHI win on appeal. GHI will be opposed in its appellate case not only by the Attorney General for the State, but also by attorneys for Prince Georges county.

Why does GHI keep on protesting the assessment and why does the assessor start all over again with the same type of assessment next year after GHI has won the appeal?

The tax assessor says he is using sales prices of GHI houses for his assessment. GHI contends that the sales of GHI units are not true sales and the price a member pays for his unit includes a value for his aliquot part of the common areas, common walkways, GHI management and office buildings, boat and trailer parking yards, GDC apartments, etc., all of which are also separately assessed and taxed to the corporation, which tax ends up in members' monthly charges.

Therefore, GHI contends that the use of a full sales price of a unit for the assessment results in double taxation for that portion of the sales price which represents a share of other real property owned by the corporation. Furthermore, a unit's sales price also includes a member's share of the reserves, which, GHI claims, should not be a base for real estate taxes, since reserves are not real property.

GHI has never been zoned nor has it ever been approved as a planned community, because the Federal Government, when it built the original Greenbelt, did not feel it was subject to such local restrictions. The prices for which the units are being sold are higher than they would be in such a non-conformist situation except that part of the price represents an interest in the other assets of GHI.

The assessor says also that he is checking his assessments by using replacements cost less depreciation, but the depreciation he is allowing in his calculations, GHI believes, is far less than it should be for buildings constructed in the late 30's and early 40's.

So much for the 1975 tax case. The assessment for 1976, of \$12,762,676 effective July 1, 1976, is based on the same formulas and theories and for reasons stated above, GHI has protested it. That case is now at the county level.

McCarthy Receives Award

by Elaine Skolnik

Over 200 Little Leaguers and parents were on hand when Norman A. McCarthy received the 1976 Award for Meritorious Service to the Youth of Greenbelt at the Little League's Annual Awards program on September 26. The coveted city award was presented at the American Legion Post 136 by Recreation Director Hank Irving and 1975 award recipient William Ball. McCarthy was recognized for his dedication and leadership to Little League as well as for his contributions to other youth organizations in the city.

McCarthy's name will be added to the plaque which will be on display at the Municipal Building. He said, "I was looking at the list of award recipients engraved on the plaque since 1954 and couldn't possibly be in better company."

Coach of the Little League Indians for 11 years, McCarthy is also coach of the CYO Girls Basketball Team (7th and 8th graders) and Boys Club Basketball, ages 15 years and over. His ties to Greenbelt date back to 1942 when he spent his summers with his aunt and uncle Mr. and Mrs. George Bradley. In 1961 he and his mother Mrs. Estelle McCarthy moved to Eastway and now the family resides at 129 Greenhill Road. He and his wife Jo Ann have four children — Colleen, 13, Christine, 11, Kelly, 10 and Danny, 8.

McCarthy has been News Editor of the Catholic Standard for 15 years. Previously he was with the Washington Post.

3 Alternatives Considered For Balt.-Wash. Parkway

According to a report in the Prince George's Sentinel the State Highway Administration (SHA) has reduced to three the number of alternatives it will consider for the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

(1) To expand the existing parkway to six lanes from Route 450 (Annapolis Road) north to I-495 (Capital Beltway) and from the Baltimore city line south to Rte. I-95. The area in between would be slated for staged construction and would not be widened at the same time. The cost of this alternative is approximately \$162 million;

(2) To expand the parkway to six lanes entirely from Washington to Baltimore. The cost: approximately \$205 million. Eliminated from this alternative was the proposal to widen the parkway to eight lanes between Washington and Rte. 450 to provide for bus lines during rush hour.

(3) To do nothing at all, but to assess what impact leaving the parkway as it is will have on the volume of traffic.

The SHA has also dropped from the interim alternatives a plan to allow trucks to travel on the parkway south of Rte. 175. Currently trucks are only allowed to use the parkway from Baltimore City south to Rte. 175.

Public hearings on the three alternatives are expected to be held in late spring or early summer, 1977.

LUCKY LEAVES

by Sheila Maffay

The 4-H Lucky Leaves have two new leaders, Sarah Brown and Joan McFarland. The group will be doing projects such as photography, terrarium making, sewing, cooking, crafts and many other interesting things. Elections will be held at our next meeting. We meet every Tuesday. Anyone interested in joining call: Joan, 474-6892, or Sarah, 474-6608. The Lucky Leaves wish to thank Mrs. Gene Marie Brown, who led the group for several years.

City Surprised By Removal Of SHL Land From Tax Rolls

by Al Skolnik

If one were charitable, it could have been called a lack of communication. If one were righteous, it could have been called a city goof. If one were cynical, it could have been called "putting over a fast one."

In any event, city council at its Monday, October 18 meeting, was indignant to learn that the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (county planning board) had decided to remove 50.7 acres of industrial land owned by

Springhill Lake developers from the county and city tax rolls without anyone on council being aware of it. This action was taken by MNCPPC on October 14 before a surprised city manager James Giese.

Background

The background was this. The city received last month a preliminary plan of subdivision to divide the Springhill Lake industrial tract into four parcels. The same preliminary plan had been filed and approved earlier and the city assumed that the re-filing was done in order to avoid an expiration date. Preliminary plan approvals are valid for only a limited period of time and because of the sewer moratorium no further action had been taken by the developer on the industrial tract.

What the city didn't know was that the plan was being filed by the owner as a means of removing the tract from the tax rolls on the grounds that the land was being considered for a METRO subway station for the Greenbelt "E" route. The notice to the city had the words "Reservation Plat" written on it, but this skipped by the city since MNCPPC did not specifically bring the matter to the attention of the city. Giese also stated that the city was not informed until the last minute that the matter would be taken up at the Oct. 14 meeting.

County Law

Under the county law, the MNCPPC is required in connection with the filing of preliminary subdivision plans to determine the need for reserving for public use any of the land affected. The Commission had received word from METRO on September 22, 1976 that the Springhill Lake industrial tract was a proposed site for the Greenbelt METRO station. A final decision on the route is expected in the Spring of 1977, but in the meantime the developer was precluded from developing the land.

(The METRO plan as approved by the county council and executive in March 1976 calls for a station with 2,700 parking spaces in the vicinity of the Capital beltway with access to be provided to the station through local roads and the Beltway. A storage yard would be located north of the Beltway between the Beltway and Sunny-side Avenue.)

Placed in Reservation

Faced with this situation, the Commission staff recommended that the 50.7 acres be placed in reservation for 3 years, retroactive to July 1, 1976. The law (Section 12) provides that such public reservations shall be exempt from all State, county, and local taxes during the reservation period. The city taxes on the 50.7 acres amounted to \$6,381.80 in the current year.

A formal resolution declaring the reservation still needs to be adopted by the Commission after public notice and possible hearing. Council is expected to make known its displeasure at the procedures followed by the Commission in this case.

As for the substantive issue, council felt that since it was in favor of the Greenbelt "E" route terminating in the Springhill Lake area, it could not really protest the reservation. It however, wondered about the timing since the plans for the METRO route remain very controversial in that the State favors an alignment along the original I-95 route (west of the University of Maryland).

Parent Discussion Group

The Springhill Lake Parent Discussion Group will meet in the teachers' lounge at the Springhill Lake Elementary School 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 27. The topic will be "Our Role as Women: How to Make Better Use of Our Time." For further information, call Sander Olek - 345-6016.

Twin Pines Reconvenes Special 1975 Meeting

The Twin Pines special membership meeting of January 20, 1975 will be reconvened next Wednesday, October 27 at 8 p.m. As has been the custom, the meeting will be sandwiched between the Member Relations committee meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and the regular board of directors meeting which will follow immediately.

Parkdale Musical Program

On Friday October 29 at 8 p.m., the 9th Annual Concert of American Music will be given by the vocal music department of Parkdale Senior High School. This department consists of 3 choirs: the Choralettes, the Concert Choir, and the Handbell Choir.

Everyone is welcome. There is a fee; senior citizens and preschoolers will be admitted free.

Council Moves Ahead On Acquiring Land

by Al Skolnik

The city council authorized the city manager at its October 18 meeting to proceed with negotiations for the purchase of 28.4 acres for parkland acquisition located in parcel 1 (the area between Greenbelt Homes, Inc. property and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway north of Northway).

The acreage is needed partly to fulfill the agreement with the Federal Government that the city will acquire 15 acres of parkland adjacent to the 14-acre triangular wedge of surplus Agricultural Research Center land deeded to Greenbelt 4 years ago, and will develop a park plan for both tracts. It is proposed that a hiker-biker trail be developed through the land.

The city proposes to acquire a strip of land (24.3 acres) along the northern boundary of the city connecting Laurel Hill Road to the surplus land and a second strip (4.1 acres) along the eastern boundary of the city connecting the surplus land to the Board of Education property adjacent to the old landfill at the end of Northway.

Remaining proceeds of the \$950,000 bond issue, together with Federal open-space grant money of \$126,400 and State money of \$29,300, is expected to provide the funds for the purchase. This proposal does not provide for the replacement of the Ridge Road Center property, which will be dealt with later by council.

Armory Parking

Receiving complaints of parking congestion on the West Parking Lot that are attributable in part to day-long parking by commuters, the council considered a parking time limitation. Part of the difficulty, said councilman Dick Pilski, is that the Greenbelt Armory has banned commuter parking since its lot was paved. He found this odd since the city lent its support to the funding of the pavement work. City manager James K. Giese was directed to make known the city's dissatisfaction to the proper authorities.

In the meantime, council tentatively agreed to draft an ordinance that would restrict parking to two hours between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) in a portion of the West parking lot.

Public Works Grant

The city council learned of the possibility that Federal funds might be available under Economic Development Assistance Title I funding for the construction of a \$255,000 addition to the Municipal Building. This grant program provides funding under the local public works capital development and investment program.

The Federal Government will pay 100 percent of the cost of construction provided certain conditions are met. One is that the city must have men on the job within 90 days of the award of the grant. Another is that the project will have no adverse affect on any historical area.

Giese cautioned that the chances of receiving the grant are not great. For the entire State, only \$21 million are available and it has been estimated that there will be less than a dozen projects granted funds throughout the State. Nevertheless, the council felt that the gamble was worth while and authorized the manager to proceed with the application.

As a result of this decision, the council had to speed up its arrangements with the architect, Dennis Madden, for preparation of final plans for the addition. If the city is to receive a public works grant, it must be prepared to undertake construction next spring, and complete plans will have to be ready by January 1. The council also approved an additional expense of \$2,500 for work related to submitting the application for the public works grant.

Other Matters

Council received a complaint regarding its curb and gutter program for Ridge Road. Gordon Allen said that the program was not in accord with the esthetic design of original Greenbelt and suggested substituting shallow curbing. City will take the matter under advisement. . . Tony Hausner has resigned from the Council of Gov-

ernments' Human Resources Citizens Advisory Committee because of conflict of schedule.

School Bd. Bans Transfers Again

At another heated meeting on October 14, the Prince Georges County Board of Education decided once and for all to prohibit the transfers of 34 students — mostly white — from Fairmont Heights senior high school to the new Eleanor Roosevelt senior high school.

A five-member majority of the board — Lesley Kreimer, Maureen Steinecke, Chester Whiting, Jesse Warr and Norman Saunders adhered to the advice of its attorney "that permitting the transfers could be construed as a 'governmental act' of resegregation." The board has been stepping carefully to avoid taking any action that could trigger a reopening of the court case which brought forced busing to Prince Georges in January 1973.

The 34 Fairmont Heights students had been among youngsters from throughout the county who had applied under the open enrollment program for the chance to fill 213 classroom seats at Roosevelt reserved for first-come, first-served applicants countywide.

Over the summer the board had upheld the Superintendent of Schools' recommendation to deny any applications from Fairmont Heights, out of concern that they could tip the racial balance there to a majority black in violation of the Warr-Steinecke resolution of May 26, 1975 and thus be considered an action taken by the board to resegregate the school.

This resolution provided that no new school will open below 10 percent black or above 50 percent black, and that no new school will be permitted to tip other schools beyond these percentages (at least for the first year).

In late August the board approved a resolution saying that if September 30 enrollment figures revealed that the transfers to Roosevelt would not result in "tipping", it would approve them. But those figures, which the board received at its October 7 meeting, showed Fairmont Heights already had tipped, even without the transfers. The question then became whether to create a further racial imbalance there would invite court reintercession in Prince Georges. The board's attorney advised that the courts had never addressed the question; thus, there was no legal precedent.

Much of the October 7 meeting and more than an hour of the October 14 session were devoted to a parliamentary duel between the four board members believing the transfers should be allowed and five who were reluctant to permit them. Board chairman Sue V. Mills ruled that a motion to block the transfers required six votes for approval, as a motion to reconsider. But her ruling was overturned on a five-to-four vote, and a resolution sponsored by board member Jesse J. Warr, Jr. to deny the transfers drew the five votes it needed. Mills cast the lone "nay" vote, with Nicholas R. Eny, Kathleen Barker and A. James Golato abstaining.

Eny said he declined to vote because he considered the Warr motion illegal and thus invalid. Eny is requesting a review of the action by a panel of parliamentarians, and a transcript of the debate to send to the Maryland State Board of Education. Eny has cases pending before the State board, charging the Superintendent and the board members voting to block the transfers with discriminating against white students. A hearing examiner will hear arguments on that in November.

Cities Adopt 1977 Legislative Program

Greenbelt officials along with other municipal officials from across the state met in Hagerstown October 7 - 9 and adopted resolutions of policy which will be the legislative program for the Maryland Municipal League during the 1977 session of the General Assembly.

The assembled municipal officials took favorable action on resolutions to:

(1) Allow municipal governments to receive full credit instead of the current 1/2 credit for automobiles registered to municipal residents for purposes of the state's highway user revenue distribution to local governments.

(2) Define the limits of public official tort liability and the scope of immunity from liability.

(3) Provide a direct semi-annual state payment to municipalities for their respective share of horse racing revenues without the revenues passing through the counties;

(4) Allow municipal governments to contract directly with the Maryland State Police for participation in the resident trooper program without counties acting as signatories;

(5) Provide the same supplemental grant of the State Aid for Police Protection Fund to municipal governments that is currently provided to county governments.

(6) Allow municipal governments to participate in the State Employees Retirement System with retirement credit commencing on the date of entry and with an option to allow credit for previous municipal service;

(7) Provide that municipal governments be treated as other local governments in that they not be required to pay property taxes on any property they may purchase for public purpose;

(8) Provide a direct quarterly state payment to municipalities for their respective shares of the State Aid for Police Protection Fund without the revenues passing through the counties.

(9) Supporting income tax reform, and providing a substantial increase in the municipal share of the income tax on some base other than the current net taxable income of municipal residents.

The Ways and Means Chairman told the assembled League delegates that 1977 would not only be the year for tax reform, but would most likely also be the year for new tax revenue proposals. He advised that the municipalities needed to get together with the county governments so that both could share any benefits that may result from tax reform.

Red Cross Volunteers

There is a constant need for blood in the Washington area. Volunteers are needed on Red Cross bloodmobiles to register and escort donors, and assemble packs. If you live in Prince Georges County and can help, please call 559-8500.

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Flu Clinics Rescheduled

The Prince Georges County Public Health Department recently announced the rescheduling of swine flu clinics. The first public clinics will be held on Sat., Oct. 23, and Sun., Oct. 24. The Saturday clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the one on Sunday from 1 to 7 p.m. All residents over age 17 are eligible for free swine flu shots.

The first clinics will be held in eight communities in the county. On the following three weekends similar programs are tentatively planned for others. The nearest clinic for Greenbelt residents on Sat., Oct. 23, is at Bladensburg Senior High - 5610 Tilden Rd. On Sunday the nearest one is at Bowie Senior High School, 15200 Annapolis Rd., (Rt. 450).

There are two types of flu vaccines. The one most residents will receive is the monovalent vaccine that protects against swine flu. The other vaccine is the bivalent vaccine. It protects against swine flu and also against the A/Victoria strain of flu that was around last winter and is expected again this year. Residents who are over 55 years of age and persons over 17 with diabetes, heart, lung or kidney diseases will receive the bivalent vaccine.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) is expected to make a major announcement on October 22 outlining its recommendations regarding the immunization of healthy children between ages three and 18 years.

CDC has already recommended a series of two shots given four weeks apart for youngsters with

SENIOR CITIZENS

There will be a series of special clinics for residents over 55 years, providing bivalent vaccine only. The clinic in Greenbelt for senior citizens will be held on Mon., Oct. 25, at the Youth Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

special health problems, such as heart, lung or kidney disease; diabetes; neuromuscular disorders like cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy; immune-deficient diseases or malignancies. Parents of children in these categories are urged to discuss vaccination with their private physician. The Health Department will offer immunizations to these special children by appointment only during the weeks of November 8 and 15 at the Health Department's six community health centers. When a child comes for his or her first appointment, he will be given an appointment for the booster shot in early December. A doctor's written referral is required.

The Health Department will not immunize anyone below age 18 at its public vaccination clinics. If the federal government recommends vaccination for all children, the Health Department will make separate arrangements to immunize minors.

Persons who are allergic to eggs or who have received another type of vaccination within the last two weeks should consult their private physicians about being immunized. Generally persons should wait four to six weeks between immunizations.

Persons coming down with a cold or fever should postpone taking the flu shot until they are feeling better and any temperature has gone away.

For further information there is a 24-hour swine flu telephone number, 262-2265, offering accurate information as well as up-to-date schedules of all vaccination clinics provided by the County Health Department.

Begonia Plants Available

The begonia plants from the city's summer flower gardens have been removed from their beds and given to Greenbelt Cares Youth Services Bureau. The flowers are available to the public for pick-up on Thurs., Oct. 21, from 5-7 p.m. and Fri., Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Ridge Road Center. A small donation is asked that will be used to help purchase tools for the Bike Shop operated by the youth.

Greenbelt Running Club

The Greenbelt Running Club will hold a meeting on Sunday evening 31 October at 8 p.m. at 105 Northway to discuss safe and scenic courses to jog or run in this area, races to be held and awards to be given for participation or placing in races. The Greenbelt Running Club supports both joggers and runners in their efforts towards physical fitness or participating in a sport. From time to time the Club will sponsor races of its own and is looking for ideas for the type of events wanted. In addition the Club has information on races held all over the Washington metropolitan area in great variety, walking races, 50 mile run-hike, 26 mile marathons, races as short as a mile, relay races, national championships or low key Run-For-Fun events. Information is available on running injuries, running shoes or other sports equipment.

The Club is looking for more members and is open to all ages and both sexes. We already have members from 6 years to 60, both experienced runners and beginning runners and joggers. Call 474-9362 for information.

MVA Changes Procedures For Getting Learner Permit

The Motor Vehicle Administration announced that, effective October 1, an applicant for a Maryland driver's license must first pass the vision and law (also known as "written") test prior to the issuance of a learner's permit.

Current procedure permits the issuance of a learner's permit prior to an applicant passing the vision and law tests with the vision, law and driving tests being administered usually at a later date.

The MVA Administrator conceded that the new procedures may work an inconvenience on some applicants because learner's permits no longer will be available through the mail. It will, however be safer.

Under the new procedure, the driving portion of the test will continue to be administered at least 14 days after the issuance of the learner's permit as required by law. The MVA also announced that the revised procedures will require that on the same day a new driver applies for his learner's permit and takes the vision and law tests he must also present his birth certificate to verify both his name and age.

Walk-In Counseling Center at DuVal H.S.

Evening walk-in counseling centers of the Prince Georges County Public School system officially began operation recently.

This program of the Board of Education is under the direction of the Department of Pupil Services. The centers are staffed with counselors, pupil personnel workers and/or psychologists, each of whom is currently employed in the county schools. Professional counseling, informational and referral services are provided during convenient evening hour to students and/or their parents.

There are no fees and no appointments are necessary. Conferences are held in private and are confidential; no notes are kept on file.

During the school year 1976-77, a center will be operated in DuVal Senior High School every Thursday (except when schools are closed) from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. For additional information, call Dr. Jean Phillips, Supervisor of Psychological Services, 952-4620.

Eleanor Roosevelt High Science Department Needs Old Magazines

The Science Department of Eleanor Roosevelt Senior high school is in need of and would greatly appreciate back issues of any scientific publication in order to increase classroom resource materials.

Any one willing to make donations may write to the Science Dept., Roosevelt Sr. High, 7600 Hanover Parkway Greenbelt, Md. 20770 or call the school office 345-7500.

Greenbelt Grab-bag

by Punchin' Judy

Gresham Malthus Jones lives in a wooded section of Greenbelt up Northend way. He was stomping around and uttering delectable expletives when I visited him the other day. "Look at this," he growled, holding up a large economy sized 32 oz. box of his favorite cleaning powder. "This cost \$1.09, including a special 10c off, while these two 16 oz packages cost 39c each, 21c less for 32 oz. than that fabulous giant special!"

"I know," I sympathized. "I just came from the cafeteria at Prince Georges Plaza. The cashier asked the man in front of me for \$3.45 each for his and his wife's dinner. When he told her it was on special for \$2.75 each, she insisted she had to charge him a la carte, because they didn't take bread and pie. The poor guy had to go back for two orders of bread and pie, before she would return the difference to him. They were left uneaten, and I felt terrible when I saw the busboy dump them into the garbage."

By this time Gresham was snarling. "You know that restaurant on Route 1, the one with the good salad bar? You can order a meal for \$2.75, including the salad. But if you order salad only, it's \$3.95."

"That's ridiculous," I demurred. "You must have misunderstood."

"Exactly what I thought," he answered. So I telephoned and asked them about it. The young lady who answered told me it was their policy and it worked out better that way. I asked her how it could, when anybody could just order the dinner and leave it uneaten, and save \$1.20. She said people just didn't do that. I'm not going to do it either. Wasting food bothers me, so they've lost me as a customer."

"Maybe the laws of logic have been repealed," I suggested. "That goes without saying," Gresham said. "Haven't you been listening to the political debates?" "Have any of the other natural laws been tampered with?" I inquired.

He wrinkled his forehead in a frown. "To tell you the truth, I'm a little worried about the Law of Probability. Yesterday I tossed a penny tails up 58 times in a row, and this morning on the Parkway, traffic was backed up for a mile and a half going north away from Washington."

"I'm not so sure about Newton's Law, either," he continued. "Yesterday when I was sitting under a tree in the park, an apple jumped up from the ground and hit me."

"Well, I guess one law is safe, and that is the one of Diminishing Returns," I said.

Gresham snorted. "That's what you think! Just wait until income tax time. When you start to work on your return, you'll find the form hasn't diminished one bit, it's longer than ever."

I walked home, shaking my head. Gresh must really be flipping to believe that natural laws could be repealed. It was a beautiful evening, and I lingered outside for a few minutes, to watch the sun sink slowly in the East.

Police Blotter

The Police Department sponsored a fingerprint school recently in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Agent David Brady conducted the class. Several officers from local departments attended.

Sgt. Phillip Coombes has completed a law enforcement instructors seminar at the University of Maryland.

Corporal Kenneth L. Stair and Corporal James R. Craze are attending the required police supervisors course sponsored by the Maryland Police Training Commission, and PFC Thomas Ceccarelli is attending the Fingerprint School.

Basketball Team Helps At Recycling Center

On Sun., Oct. 24, and Nov. 7 members of the Greenbelt Boys Club basketball team will be volunteering their services at the Maryland recycling center on the University of Maryland Campus. The boys will help the center staff in recycling glass, paper and cans. Residents are urged to bring recyclable items to the center, particularly on these dates. The center is located behind the heating plant on Route 1. From the Beltway go past McDonalds, across the bridge, turn left at the first traffic light. The center will operate from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on those days. For further information call Phil Straw at 345-5411.

Greenbelt's Library

On-Again, Off-Again Films is on this Sat., Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. in the Meeting Room. The major film is *Bridge of Adam Rush*, the story of a 12-year old boy's struggle to win the love of his new stepfather and adjust to the hardships of farm life in the early 1800's. A short film on football, *Forever Football*, will also be shown.

A Slide-Talk program by Toby Cooper of the Defenders of Wildlife, a national wildlife conservation organization will be held on Thurs., Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. Cooper will discuss the present state of endangered species of wildlife and marine mammals, predator control and new concepts in wildlife management. The program is sponsored by the Sierra Club.

A "Rock-In" for young adults featuring local folksingers will be held at the library on Oct. 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. Bring an instrument or just come and listen.

Creative Dramatics for first and second graders will be offered at the library by students of the University of Maryland's course in Dramatic Arts for Children. Sessions will be every Thursday from 7-8 p.m. from October 28 through December 2, unless otherwise specified. This is an extension of the same program for children held on the campus. For registration and/or information call the library, Children's Department at 345-5800.

DROP-IN STORY TIME, beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursdays, offers a half-hour full of music, fingerplays and stories for ages 3-5.

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OUR PITCH IS BUY and yours will be too when you see this 3 bedroom brick townhouse in Greenbelt close to the Center and everything. Large living room, sep. dining room, nice appliances, washer/dryer combo. and all for \$179.75 after down payment. Call us for details on this really nice home. \$25,000.

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PETE "ROSE" to the occasion, why aren't you? TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW 8% INTEREST RATE and buy this 3 BR 2 1/2 bath home close to NASA. Equipped with washer, dryer, 2 A/C's and added ref. in bsmt. Beautiful rec. room. Nice lot with patio. FHA/VA terms! \$49,900.

"END" YOUR PROBLEMS housing-wise and buy this bargain priced 3 BR End unit with light paneled walls and equipped with washer, dryer, A/C, and attached shed. Beautiful lge. treed and fenced lot next to playground, see it and you will buy it! At, would you believe (with all utilities included in the pmts.) \$15,950.

"BENCH SITTING" JOHNNY? take advantage of the new 8% interest rate reduction and buy this fine 4 BR home with rec. room in basement and fireplace in LR (firewood included) and get your share of tax savings for this year. Added features are a T/S kit, and a din. rm. Equipped with washer, dryer, ref. and 3 A/C's. Lots of off street parking. All terms. \$41,500.

CROWDED? You should see this STADIUM SIZED COLONIAL 4 BR 2 1/2 bath CAC, all appliances, plus W/W carpeting, and an attic fan. Carport and fenced corner yard near NASA and Greenbelt. FHA/VA/Conv. terms. \$65,900. Best of all, this home is below appraisal and owner will pay a good portion of your closing costs. Again, \$65,900.

OUR "WALKIE TALKIES" WORK SO, call us on 345-2151 anytime day or night about this 4 BR brick home w/sep. din. rm. in College Park with new designed kit, and appliances. New furnace, plus many, many other features. VA appraised at \$40,000.

"SPARKY AND DER SON" could live comfortably in this 3 BR End home near the Govt. Agric. Farm. Woods in back! Equipped with D/D ref, washer, dryer, A/C and 2 sheds. BIG YARD, and fenced. All utilities except elect. and phone included in pmts. \$18,000.

GERONIMO short stop them at the pass and buy this 3 BR 2 bath brick CAC ramblar with fabulous carpeted rec. rm. and bar plus tilted lights and pull-out bed. Equipped with new self-cleaning oven, washer, dryer, and shed. Lots of off-street parking including a double carport and a screened patio. Wooded lot! Better hurry on this one located in NASA-Seabrook area. You will never have to move again. OWNER WILL HOLD LARGE SECOND TRUST. FHA/VA terms also. \$53,500.

DOWN THE GULLET GOES ANOTHER BARGAIN when you latch on this terrific buy!!! 4 nice size bedrooms, sep. din. room, eat-in kitchen, large living room, rec room, two (2) yes I said 2 complete baths and much more on a dead-end street and with a fence around it. All this on your terms \$49,500 VA appraised with additions since the appraisal!!!

IT'S OUR CONCEPCION you have waited too long to see this brick-alum. cape cod in Oak Springs. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, storm windows and doors, shed, screened porch and 3 windows A/C's. This one's next to playground and rec. field \$38,900. and will go VA or conv.

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CALDWELL'S WASHER SERVICE. All makes expertly repaired. Authorized Whirlpool dealer. GR 4-5515.

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The Campus Center for Early Learning is starting a Before and After Elementary School program October 4th at Brae Brook Apartment Community Center, Greenbelt, Maryland. Center hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The program includes transportation from the Center to elementary schools in the morning, and transportation back to the Center after school. The Center will also have a preschool program for children 2-5 years old. For additional information and registration please call Ms. Marie Jacobsen, 345-8830.

CERAMIC TILE - Bathrooms, kitchens, foyers. New work & repairs. Free estimates. Call Bill 935-0791.

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Oppose Amendment

The Prince Georges Municipal Association recently refused to endorse a proposed constitutional amendment giving the county power to control development in areas immediately adjacent to METRO stations. This action was taken despite the previous efforts of Association president Gil Weidenfeld in securing county council assurances that it would not undertake development in a municipality without the municipality's approval.

The proposed amendment to be voted on as question 19 in the November election provides that a 3/4 vote of the county council could overcome municipal opposition. The constitutional amendment applies only to Prince Georges county, but will be on the November ballot state-wide. If approved by the voters, the General Assembly will be asked to adopt the detailed enabling legislation during the session beginning in January.

Apparently the Municipal League members wanted to see the county council assurances incorporated into the language of the amendment, rather than left to future enabling legislation.

La Leche Meeting

On Thursday, Oct. 28, La Leche League will meet to discuss the "Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties." The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at 35-L Ridge Rd. For further information call Jill Coutts 474-0616 or Marilyn Brinkley, 345-2141.

HOUSE DOCTOR

Expert craftsman will replace broken window glass, misc. electrical jobs, wall patching, ceramic tile, etc. Assemble sheds and yard duties. Call evenings.

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CHILD CARE - Greenbelt-Goddard area. References. Any age child, any hours considered. 552-2997.

11 millimeter black powder service revolver 1774. \$150 firm. 552-2997.

GARAGE SALE - Sat., Oct. 23, 1976. 9 - 4 p.m. Garage at 13 Court Ridge Road.

COURT YARD SALE - Field at entrance to 23 Court Ridge Road, Sat. & Sun., October 23 and 24, 9:00 - 3:00; Army Uniforms, coins, stamps, toys housewares, books, records.

JOGGERS and anyone interested in using a convenient par course (a physical fitness course designed to maximize exercise time) call 345-8094 after 6 p.m. and weekends. I'm not selling anything.

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FOUND - Grey & Black striped kitten. Vic. Lakeside Dr. 474-1606. Former elementary teacher, mother of 4 mo. old, wishes to babysit during the day in her home. 474-3984.

SALE - Brentwood style rocker. Chrome and black vinyl. \$50. 345-4874 eves.

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FOR SALE - '66 VW Bug. excellent running condition, \$585. 474-8564.

SNOW TIRES - radial, FR 70 x 14, WSW, mounted, balanced, 5/16 in. tread. \$50. Call 345-6070.

TENT - blue, 10 ft. wide, 18 ft. long, 8 ft. high, 1 piece floor, outside frame, inside flaps, large windows, tarpaulin, \$50. Call 345-6070.

Our Neighbors

Elaine Skolnik - 474-6060

It's a daughter for Mr. and Mrs. J. Christopher Rowland, 7-M Research. Their first child, Kimberly Eileen, arrived October 3 weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz. She is also the first grandchild for Mrs. Rosemary Rowland of Greenbelt and James W. Rowland formerly of Greenbelt; and the first great-grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. William Hennessy, 16-Y Ridge.

Another first time grandmother is Tillie Wetter, 9 Ridge. Jennie Alisa made her debut Sept. 29 weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz. She is the daughter of Robert and Susan Wetter of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs. George Anderson, 139 Northway, who is recuperating at home after surgery.

Walter Wight and daughter and son-in-law Marian and Ed Klukowski, 105 Hedgewood, just returned from a vacation trip to Wisconsin. They attended the Purdue-Wisconsin game along with a record crowd of 79,108. Mr. Wight is a member of the University of Wisconsin's Alumni Association - class of 1918. A visit to the Klukowski's son and family was also on their itinerary.

Our deepest sympathy to Vera Collins on the death of her husband, John Collins. Condolences also to daughter Barbara Olson.

Airman Raymond G. Salamy graduated from the U. S. Air Force's law enforcement specialist course conducted by the Air Training Command. Airman Salamy, whose mother is Mrs. Thelmo Gheen of 112 Lastner Lane, is now trained in security and law enforcement and will serve at Andrews AFB.

Airman Pamela A. Ulery, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Rudd of 5801 Cherrywood Ter, has graduated with honors at Sheppard AFB, Tex., from the U. S. Air Force aircraft maintenance specialist conducted by the Air Training Command.

Airman Ulery is being assigned to Langley AFB, Va., for duty with a unit of the Tactical Air Command.

Sgt. Michael R. Gheen has received the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Keflavik Airport, Iceland. Sergeant Gheen, an avionics instruments systems specialist, was cited for meritorious service at Norton AFB, Calif. Now assigned at Keflavik, the sergeant serves with a unit of the Aerospace Defence Command. Sgt. Gheen's father, Frank Gheen, resides at 112 Lastner Lane.

Visiting the Goldstein family, 56-C Crescent, is David Gorney from Sydney, Australia.

It's a boy for Jim and Firoozeh Sturdivant, 8024 Lakecrest. Nysan was born on Oct. 7.



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MNCPPC Pays Little Heed To City Council's Views

by Elaine Skolnik

Without expressing any of the reservations that the Greenbelt city council had, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (county planning board) on October 14 approved the latest subdivision plan for the commercially-zoned Golden Triangle. According to the city, the board was originally expected to take up the matter on Oct. 28 and the earlier consideration date left the city of Greenbelt not fully represented at the meeting.

The planning board said that the approval was a routine matter in that it was reiterating the same conditions that had been imposed before. One major condition was that there must be a review by the planning board of the site plan for each parcel prior to the releasing of a building permit. In technical language, this means a site analysis in regard to possible natural development constraint.

Conditions

A spokesman for MNCPPC gave the following example. At the building permit stage, the urban design section of MNCPPC would review the types of architecture and colors being planned. This is considered important because the 57-acre Golden triangle — located along Greenbelt Road between the Capital Beltway and Kenilworth Ave. — is a highly visible area.

Another condition laid down by the planners is that the MNCPPC staff in its review must consult with the city of Greenbelt.

As for the decision to shift the proposed preliminary site for the Capitol Cadillac of D.C. auto agency, the planning board saw no problems. Such a move is considered necessary so that Capitol Cadillac would not find itself in the position of being in the way of a highway ramp if the State Highway Administration decides to eliminate the current Southway entrance to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and carve out a new entrance at the eastern end of the Golden Triangle. This would permit traffic moving west on Greenbelt Rd. to connect with the southbound lane of the B-W Parkway.

In connection with the latter, the subdivision plan was modified at the Oct. 14 meeting to allow additional land for the ramp. The latest from the State Highway Administration (SHA) is that possibly 7 to 9 acres may be needed. Complicating the problem is the location of the PEPCO unmanned substation which may take up to 1.5 acres in the same area.

The city council had asked for disapproval of the plan because of the traffic effects of the ramp, the piecemeal approach to development of the tract, lack of access to city-owned property, and possible maintenance problems for a pond and landscaping area.

With respect to the latter item, MNCPPC said that this portion of the land will be separately-maintained and owned by the owner, Kenneth H. Michael Companies. The pond has the two-fold purpose of storm water retention and beautification.

At Monday's council meeting, councilman Dick Pilski commented that it was odd that MNCPPC insists upon an overall development plan for Beltway Plaza, but not for the Golden Triangle.

Council Protests

In a letter to the county delegation to the State legislature released last week, Greenbelt Mayor Gil Weidenfeld on behalf of council objected to the proposed SHA purchase of the Golden Triangle acreage. Besides questioning the need for substituting the Golden Triangle ramp for the Southway entrance, Weidenfeld foresaw added traffic congestion for Greenbelt streets and the Greenbelt Road-Kenilworth intersection. He noted that the ramp is not part of any approved plan.

He also protested the fact that SHA acted without consulting the city. It was further noted that if the land is not used for the ramp it might be sold back to private interests at a time when it would be less suitable for quality development than if it had remained part of the larger tract.

Wants Quality Development

Earlier in a letter to county executive Winfield M. Kelly and the county council, Weidenfeld expres-

sed the city's reservations regarding the development plan for the tract. The county council had approved water and sewer authorization for Capital Cadillac last May on the grounds that it would lead to "quality development."

Weidenfeld foresaw this decision as simply encouraging the Golden Triangle to "become just another hodge podge of small commercial developments typical of so many other areas in the county." The latest plans he said, call for an automobile dealership, a PEPCO substation and a highway ramp.

"The uses proposed to date for the Golden Triangle," he said, "are not the kind that are supportive of quality development for the remaining land. The loss of so much land to these inconsequential uses will rule out a number of uses that require more land than is now available. It is a sad commentary on this county's efforts to achieve quality development when number one ranking for sewer authorization is given to an automobile dealership."

Weidenfeld also noted that the SHA purchase will remove valuable land from the tax rolls.

He ended on the strong words, "If this county truly wants quality development, it must fight for it in every way possible. We believe the Golden Triangle is the battlefield and that it is long past time for the county government to join the battle."

Recreation Review

Holiday Hours

The Greenbelt Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center will be open 12 noon to 11 p.m. on Mon., Oct. 25. Activities include basketball, air hockey, ping pong, pool and table soccer.

Ridge Road Center Drop-In

The Center is open Mon. through Fri., 3:30-5:30 p.m. for ping pong, table soccer, floor hockey and other table games. All neighborhood youth are encouraged to participate in these after school activities.

Halloween Costume Parade and Party

It's time for goblins and ghosts again. Halloween is scary, but fun at the Youth Center. There will be prizes, candy, movies and games. This activity is for children pre-school through 6th grade. This Halloween gathering will be held at the Youth Center on Sat., Oct. 30, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Roller Skating

Skating is held in the Center School gymnasium from 4:30-8 p.m. on the following days: Mondays, 3rd and 4th grades; Wednesdays, 5th and 6th grades; Fridays, 1st and 2d grades. A nominal fee will be charged at the door.

Attention Greenbelt Craftsmen

Applications are available at the Youth Center business office for Greenbelt's Annual Christmas Craft Show and Sale, sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Department. The show will be held on Fri., Sat., and Sun., Dec. 3, 4 and 5.

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Employee Pension Plan Amended by GHI Board

by Miriam Cornelius

Employees of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. stand to benefit through amendments to the existing pension plan adopted by the board of directors on Oct. 14. Director James R. Foster, chairman of the finance committee, presented the proposal, which is the product of 2 years or more of study.

The committee recommended that the contract with Bankers Life Company be continued in amended form. Comptroller Don McGinn submitted a detailed tabulation showing for each employee the monthly pension which would be due at age 65 under the present plan and under the proposed plan. Most employees would receive higher pensions under the proposed plan — some of them substantially higher — according to this tabulation. The action taken by the board provides that no one would draw a lesser pension.

As the matter had been given careful study and discussed by the board at previous meetings, the committee's recommendation was quickly adopted. This provides for retirement credit up to 30 years of service, based on 1.5 percent of average salary. In addition the new retirement plan will provide for term life insurance equal to twice the annual salary of the employee.

Deferral of Increases

On the method of financing a program of deferred increases in monthly charges for certain elderly GHI members, director Foster said the finance committee was ready to recommend that funds for financing the program be taken from other earned income of the corporation; that the principal and interest be returned to it; and that the criteria for eligibility "be those proposed by the GHI Member and Community Relations committee, which are understood to be the same as those of the City of Greenbelt."

On motion of director Ted Byerly the motion was amended to require that the amount to be so expended be shown in the annual budget for each year. The amendment was adopted and the amended motion passed without dissent.

Other Matters

GHI president James Smith reported that the Director of Maintenance George Craft was separated two weeks ago and the board is reviewing this action.

Management submitted a memorandum on hospitalization insurance for GHI employees, of which the corporation pays 65 percent and the employee 35 percent. Manager Roy Breashears pointed out that when the current contract with Blue Cross-Blue Shield expires at the end of 1976 there will be a sharp rise in premiums which will increase the corporation's share by almost \$10,000 a year. The board agreed that other systems of hospitalization insurance should be explored.

During the remainder of the session, which was adjourned by 9:30 p.m., the board listened patiently to member requests and reached decisions involving in one case presale inspection of a GHI home and in the other the size and location of an addition.

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Congresswoman Gladys Spellman is shown receiving a citation for her work on behalf of the cities of Maryland from Greenbelt Mayor Gil Weidenfeld, president of the Prince Georges County Municipal Association. Weidenfeld, representing the Association, and Mayor John Apostol of Annapolis, president of the Maryland Municipal League, praised the Congresswoman for the key role which she played in the passage of the extension of the federal revenue sharing program. The program will return over \$12.7 million annually to Prince Georges county and more than one million dollars to municipalities in the county.

Ed ad.

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